

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image server for outputting encrypted image data to at least one client terminal among a plurality thereof, comprising:

5 a selection unit for selecting, from among the plurality of client terminals, a client terminal to which image data is to be output;

 an encryption unit for encrypting the image data using an encryption key which corresponds to the client
10 terminal that has been selected by said selection unit; and

 an encrypted image data output unit for outputting image data that has been encrypted by said encryption unit.
15 2. The image server according to claim 1, wherein the image data includes high-resolution image data for printing and display image data having a resolution lower than that of the high-resolution image data for printing; and

20 said encryption unit encrypting the high-resolution image data for printing.

3. A client terminal comprising:

 an input unit for inputting image data that has been encrypted using an encryption key which corresponds
25 to this client terminal;

 a decryption unit for decrypting encrypted image data, which has been input by said input unit, using the corresponding decryption key; and

09667701.092200

an output unit for outputting image data that has been decrypted by said decryption unit.

4. An image printing system comprising:

an image selection unit for selecting at least one
5 image from among a plurality thereof;

a print command unit for applying a command to print the image that has been selected by said image selection unit; and

a printing unit, which is responsive to a print
10 command applied by said print command unit, for printing, on the same visible recording medium, the image that has been selected by said image selection unit and information relating to a copyright holder of the selected image.

15 5. The system according to claim 4, further comprising an input unit for inputting data in which image data representing a plurality of images and information relating to copyrights of these images are associated with each other;

20 said image selection unit selecting a desired image from among the plurality of images represented by the image data input by said input unit.

6. An image printing system comprising:

a scanner for reading an image that has been
25 recorded on a visible recording medium and outputting image data representing the read image;

a determination unit for determining whether an image that has been read by said scanner contains

002260" T049960

information relating to a copyright holder of the image;

an image printing unit for printing an image, which
has been read by said scanner, in accordance with a
determination by said determination unit that the read
5 image does not contain information relating to the
copyright holder; and

a printing controller for halting normal printing
of the image by said image printing unit in accordance
with a determination by said determination unit that the
10 read image contains information relating to the
copyright holder.

7. A data installing apparatus for reading data from a
first portable recording medium on which the data has
been recorded and installing the image data that has
15 been read, wherein a unique first password has been
stored in an image printing unit and said apparatus
comprises:

a password reading unit for reading a second
password from a second portable recording medium on
20 which the second password has been rewritably recorded;

a password determination unit for determining
whether the first password and the second password,
which has been read by said password reading unit,
match;

25 a first installation execution unit for executing
the installation in response to a determination by said
password determination unit that the first and second
passwords match; and

002260" 7079960

installation in response to a number of installations that is zero and, moreover, a second password that is not initial data.

10. An image data output apparatus for outputting image
5 data corresponding to a plurality of image printing units which print images represented by image data, comprising:

a designation unit for designating an output destination of applied image data from among the
10 plurality of image printing units;

a format conversion unit for converting a format of the applied image data so as to obtain a format conforming to the image printing unit that has been designated by said designation unit; and

15 an image data output unit for outputting the image data, the format whereof has been converted by said format conversion unit, to the image printing unit that has been designated by said designation unit.

11. The apparatus according to claim 10, further
20 comprising an input unit for inputting an image file containing the image data and data indicating the output destination of this image data;

said designation unit designating the output destination of image data by data indicating the output
25 destination that is contained in the image file that has been input by said input unit.

12. A printing management apparatus for managing printing conditions in a plurality of image printing

09667701-092200

units which print images represented by image data, wherein data representing printing history is output from the image printing units and said apparatus comprises:

5 a reading unit for reading data representing the printing history output from the image printing units; and

 a format conversion unit for converting the data representing the printing history read by said reading
10 unit to data having a predetermined format.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising an aggregating unit for aggregating, for each of the plurality of printing units, the data which represents printing history and the format of which has
15 been converted by said format conversion unit.

14. A method of controlling an image server for outputting encrypted image data to at least one client terminal among a plurality thereof, said method comprising the steps of:

20 selecting, from among the plurality of client terminals, a client terminal to which image data is to be output;

 encrypting the image data using an encryption key which corresponds to the client terminal that has been
25 selected; and

 outputting image data that has been encrypted.

15. A method of controlling a client terminal, comprising the steps of:

002220" 092200

inputting image data that has been encrypted using
an encryption key which corresponds to the client
terminal;

decrypting input encrypted image data using the
5 corresponding decryption key; and

outputting image data that has been decrypted.

16. An image printing method comprising the steps of:

selecting at least one image from among a plurality
thereof;

10 receiving a command to print the image that has
been selected;

in response to a print command applied by the print
command unit, printing, on the same visible recording
medium, the image that has been selected and information
15 relating to a copyright holder of the selected image.

17. An image printing method comprising the steps of:

reading an image that has been recorded on a
visible recording medium and acquiring image data
representing the read image;

20 determining whether an image that has been read
contains information relating to a copyright holder of
the image;

printing an image, which has been read, in
accordance with a determination that the read image does
25 not contain information relating to the copyright
holder; and

halting normal printing of the image in accordance
with a determination that the read image contains

002260" T029360

information relating to the copyright holder.

18. A method of installing data in a data installing apparatus for reading data from a first portable recording medium on which the data has been recorded and
5 installing the image data that has been read, wherein a unique first password has been stored in the data installation apparatus and said method comprises the steps of:

reading a second password from a second portable
10 recording medium on which the second password has been rewritably recorded;

determining whether the first password and the second password, which has been read, match;

executing the installation in response to a
15 determination that the first and second passwords match; and

inhibiting the installation in response to a determination that the first and second passwords do not match.

20 19. A method of outputting image data in an image data output apparatus for outputting image data corresponding to a plurality of image printing units which print images represented by image data, comprising the steps of: designating an output destination of applied image
25 data from among the plurality of image printing units;

converting a format of the applied image data so as to obtain a format conforming to the image printing unit that has been designated; and

0966701.092200

outputting the image data, the format whereof has been converted, to the image printing unit that has been designated.

20. A printing management method for managing printing
5 conditions in a plurality of image printing units which print images represented by image data, wherein data representing printing history is output from the image printing units and said method comprises the steps of:

reading data representing the printing history
10 output from the image printing units; and

converting the data representing the printing history read to data having a predetermined format.

002250" T0/9960